CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A compound comprising a polysaccharide having at least two sialic acid units linked 2.8 and/or 2.9 to one another, and having reducing and non-reducing terminal units and said polysaccharides having a pendant moiety linked to ~~at least one~~ the reducing terminal ~~unit derived from a~~ sialic acid unit which pendant moiety includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide, ~~vinylsulphone~~ vinyl sulfone, N-iodoacetamide and orthopyridyl ~~disulphide~~ disulfide.

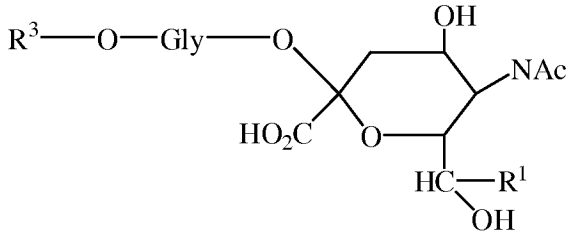
2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the pendant moiety further comprises alkylene and/or arylene and/or an oxalkylene and/or oligooxa-alkylene and/or oligopeptide.

5. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the functional group is N-maleimido.

6. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid.

7. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 which has the formula



wherein:

[[(a)]] R^1 is H or -$CHOHCH_2OH$, ~~and R^2 is OH~~,

R^3 is $-CH_2CHR^4R^5$ or $-CH(CH_2OH)CHR^4R^5$ wherein R^4 and R^5 together represent $=N-NR^6$ or R^4 is H and R^5 is $-NR^6R^7$ in which R^6 is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group ~~or is H,~~ and R^7 is H~~, or R^6 and R^7 together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group; or~~

~~(b) R^1 and R^2 together represent $=N-NHR^6$ or R^1 is H and R^2 is $-NR^6R^7$ in which R^6 is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R^7 is H or R^6 and R^7 together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group~~;

O-Gly is a glycosyl (saccharide) group;

n is 1-50; and

Ac is acetyl.

8. (previously presented): A compound of claim 7 in which each O-Gly is a sialic acid unit.

9. (currently amended): A ~~polysialyated~~ polysialylated protein with at least one cysteine unit linked through a ~~thioester~~ thioether bond to at least one reducing terminal unit of a polysialic acid.

10. (previously presented): A compound of claim 1 wherein polysaccharide has at least 10 saccharide units.

11-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended): A process to prepare **[[**the**]]** a polysialylated protein ~~of claim 9~~ coupled to the reducing terminal unit of a polysaccharide which method comprises reacting ~~a maleimido-functional polysialic acid~~ the compound of claim 5 with ~~a polypeptide or~~ a protein having at least one free unprotected cysteine whereby the N-maleimido ~~maleimide~~ group forms a thioether linkage with the thiol group of said cysteine.

22. (currently amended): A process to prepare a polysialylated protein which comprises reacting the compound of claim 1 with ~~a polypeptide or~~ a protein having at least one-cysteine whereby the said functional group forms a thioether linkage with the thiol group of said cysteine.

23. (previously presented): The compound of claim 6 wherein said polysaccharide consists essentially of sialic acid units and said pendant moiety.

24. (previously presented): The compound of claim 10 wherein the polysaccharide has at least 50 saccharide units.

25-29. (canceled)

30. (new): A compound of claim 6 wherein polysaccharide has at least 10 saccharide units.

31. (new): A compound of claim 8 wherein polysaccharide has at least 10 saccharide units.